

MARINE SAFETY BULLETIN

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ISPS VERIFICATION INSPECTIONS Central and South America & Mexico

This Bulletin provides details on how MSO New Orleans will be conducting security verifications in accordance with the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code, along with the issuance of the International Ship Security Certificates (ISSC) for vessels operating in Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean.

Ref: (a) Title 33 Code of Federal Regulations Part 104 – Maritime Security: Vessels
(b) NVIC 04-03: Guidance for Verification of Vessel Security Plans on Domestic Vessels in accordance with MTSA of 2002 and ISPS Code

In accordance with references (a) and (b), all U.S. vessels operating in the waters of a foreign country that meet the service or tonnage criteria in SOLAS are required to comply with the ISPS Code and obtain an ISSC for the vessel. The regulations state that the owner or operator of vessels that require an ISSC must request an inspection of the vessel at least 30 days in advance prior to the desired inspection date. **The inspection must be completed and the initial ISSC must be issued on or before July 1, 2004.**

Because of the limited inspector resources available and understanding that vessel scheduling can be dynamic, MSO New Orleans intends to station inspectors in various locations throughout Central and South America and Mexico prior to July 1, 2004 according to the following schedule:

Mexico : (Del Carmen, Dos Bocas only)	May 4 - 27, 2004	
Trinidad:	May 4 – 13, 2004	
Brazil:	May 19 – 26, 2004	
Venezuela:	June 1 – 10, 2004	
Rest of Mexico and all other countries	April - June, 2004	*** date must be specifically requested by owner/ operator 30 days in advance but no later than April 01, 2004.

For those vessels having a COI anniversary date of June or earlier, we will attempt, if time permits, to accommodate the annual/COI inspection while in country. All those vessels having a COI anniversary date of July 1, 2004 or later will have to be scheduled after July 1, 2004.

So that more specific vessel scheduling can be coordinated, please provide the name and number of the country manager who will be accompanying the inspector during each vessel's security verification inspection to our Overseas Inspection Coordinator, Mr. Rob Holzman at 504-589-4214 or Fax: 504-589-4216.